

## Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

**August 27, 2004**

### **This Week In Central Office**

#### Monday, August 23

Commissioner Miller visited with staff and students at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center.

Commissioner Miller attended the FSA meeting, which was held in Nashville.

### **The Week Ahead**

#### Monday, August 30

Commissioner Miller will attend the System of Care Symposium with members of the Children's Cabinet.

#### Tuesday, August 31

Commissioner Miller will attend the Davidson County Foster/Adoptive Parent Association Meeting.

#### Wednesday, September 1

Commissioner Miller will visit Wilder Youth Development Center and the Jackson Group Home.

### **How TennCare Reform Affects DCS**

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The Governor has released information regarding his plan to reform TennCare.

*How does the proposed reform affect benefits for children in DCS care?*

- **No eligibility groups are being removed from the TennCare program.**
- **There will be no benefit limits for CHILDREN.**
- **There will be no premiums or copays for children.**  
(Currently TennCare Standard does require premiums and copays for children)
- **Some prescription medications will require prior authorization.**  
Drugs will be grouped into A-drugs, B-drugs, and C-drugs.  
*A-drugs will not require prior authorization.*  
*B-drugs will require prior authorization.*  
*C-drugs will only be covered in rare, unique circumstances.*

*Other Basics about TennCare Reform*

The plan will introduce benefits limits, however this will only affect 20 percent of the TennCare population. More enrollees will have cost sharing obligations, and pharmacy coverage will be managed more aggressively. There will be a disease management program for persons 21 and over, who are disabled.

If you want to read further about the reform, you can find a copy of the TennCare proposed Waiver, a briefing sheet, a power point, and a news release at [www.tn.gov/governor/tenncare.htm](http://www.tn.gov/governor/tenncare.htm)



TENnder Care will be used to educate persons about TennCare's EPSDT screening program. You will begin to see this logo on information and education about EPSDT. This fall, TENnder Care brochures will be provided to all children in public school. TENnder Care brochures are being provided to DCS Regions and CSAs for distribution to children and families. You already know the importance of EPSDT screenings for children in care. TennCare wants all children in Tennessee to receive wellness screenings!

### **New Policy on Placement Determinations**

Included in the policy updates released by Mary Hubbert this week, is 31.19, a new policy entitled "Placement Determinations for Children in DCS Custody." It provides for a process in the event a case manager is concerned that the recommendation for placement services made at the CFTM is not being followed.

If a case manager receives a request or is pressured to make a change from the decision made in the CFTM, they need to contact their regional administrator, or Judy Cole, the Executive Director of Regional Support. The policy provides that the RA and Judy Cole will then review the team decision to determine whether the current decisions remain, or request that the CFTM be reconvened for the purpose of considering a change in the permanency goal, placement or service(s).

This policy was drafted at the recommendation of external stakeholders, who were concerned that case managers have a recourse if they feel the decision making is being

compromised. This provides an additional “check and balance” in the placement process.

*The entire policy can be reviewed on the DCS Intranet.*

### **Andrea Walks for Tennessee’s Children**



Online registration is now available for First Lady Andrea Conte’s child advocacy center walk-a-thon! Please visit the link below to register for the statewide walk to raise money for Tennessee’s CACs!

[www.active.com/event\\_detail.cfm?event\\_id=1149520](http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1149520)



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**“To solve big problems you have to be willing to do unpopular things.”**  
Lee Iacocca